

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 15088 261354Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 067229

R 261049Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6906

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 15088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, TH

SUBJ: CONTINUING ACTION IN THE THUNG YAI HUNTING SCANDAL

REF: A. BANGKOK 8990

SUMMARY: THE THUNG YAI HUNTING SCANDAL INTERMITTENTLY PERCOLATES INTO THE HEADLINES. THE RTG CONTINUES SLOW PREPARATIONS FOR THE TRIAL OF SENIOR MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICIALS, ALONG WITH PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN AND A MOVIE STAR, FOR POACHING ON THE FAMED NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE. THE FILING OF CHARGES AGAINST ELEVEN DEFENDANTS, THE LATEST STEP IN THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION, SET OFF THE MOST RECENT FLURRY OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE RTG CONTINUES TO PROCEED CAREFULLY WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF THE PRICKLY THUNG YAI HUNTING SCANDAL. POLICE COLONELS AMORN YUKTANAN, KOSOL SUMPUCHART, AND THEP ASSAWARAK APPEARED AT POLICE REGION 7 HEADQUARTERS IN NAKHON PATHOM PROVINCE SEPTEMBER 19 OSTENSIBLY TO BE FORMALLY CHARGED. THE THREE POLICE OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, WERE NOT PLACED IN CUSTODY BECAUSE THEY REPORTEDLY PLEADED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RAISE THE 50,000 BAHT BAIL BOND REQUIRED ONCE THEY ARE FORMALLY CHARGED. THIS LENIENCY CONTRASTS WITH PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, POLICE LT. GEN. PRACHUAB

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 15088 261354Z

SUNTHARANGKUL, THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE AGAINST

THE THREE POLICE OFFICERS TO GO TO COURT. SUCH FAVORITISM DREW FIRE FROM NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS AS "ADDING INJURY TO INSULT" THROUGH AN EXAMPLE OF "JUSTICE AT THE CONVENIENCE" OF THE HIGH-RANKING ACCUSED.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 21 FORMAL CHARGES WERE FILED AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS. ARMY COLONELS AMNUAY KJSUWAN, CHAMNONG RODCHAROEN, AND SUPAT SARASIN WERE FORMALLY NOTIFIED OF THE CHARGES, AND THEIR CASES WERE TURNED OVER TO ARMY COURTS FOR TRIAL. THE POLICE COLONELS WERE ALSO BOOKED AND RELEASED ON BAIL. BUSINESSMEN PANAT DHEPHASDIN, SURIN NARTCHALIEW, AND CHERDPHAN BULSUK WERE SIMILARLY CHARGED AND RELEASED ON BAIL AS WAS MOVIE ACTRESS METTA RUNGRAT AND THE HAPLESS KAREN GUIDE. A TOTAL OF ELEVEN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CHARGED.

3. COMMENT: LT. COLONEL CHAMNONG RODCHAROEN OF THE 11TH INFANTRY REGIMENT MAY FIND THE THUNG YAI PUBLICITY PARTICULARLY UNCOMFORTABLE. CHAMNONG HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CLANDESTINELY INVOLVED WITH BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS (BANGKOK 14199)

4. CONCLUSION: WHILE THE THUNG YAI SCANDAL IS GOOD FOR A HEADLINE OR TWO, RECENT ARTICLES HAVE NOT STIMULATED THE INDIGNATION OF FIVE MONTHS AGO. THE RTG COULD STILL COMPROMISE ITSELF IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC IF IT TOOK THE PRESENT LACK OF INTENSE PUBLIC INTEREST TO MEAN THAT IT COULD ALLOW THE CASE TO DIE OUT WITHOUT TRIAL. EVEN IF THE ULTIMATE SENTENCES ARE INSIGNIFICANT, THE RTG WOULD PROVIDE GRIST TO ITS CRITICS BY NOT FOLLOWING THROUGH.
MASTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPECIES PROTECTION, COURTS MARTIAL, POLICE FORCES, WILD LIFE, TRIALS, THUNG YAI HUNTING SCANDAL, PUBLIC PARKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO15088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MASTERS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730910/aaaaahfn.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BANGKOK 8990
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING ACTION IN THE THUNG YAI HUNTING SCANDAL
TAGS: PINT, PINR, TH, (YUKTANAN, AMORN), (SUMPUCHART, KOSOL), (KIJSUWAN, AMNUAY), (RODCHAROEN, CHAMNONG), (DHEPHASDIN, PANAT), (RUNGRAT, METTA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005